

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) Method for producing foamed slag (7) on high-chromium steel melts (6) in an electric arc furnace (1), wherein a mixture of a metal oxide and carbon is introduced into the furnace (1), the metal oxide is reduced by the carbon in the slag (7), and the resulting gases form bubbles in the slag, which thus cause the slag to foam, wherein the mixture of metal oxide and carbon is introduced into the furnace as compressed preforms (8) or ~~and/or~~ preforms (8) provided with a binder, wherein density of the preforms (8) is adjusted by compression pressure and ~~and/or~~ a type and quantity of an added iron carrier so that the preforms ~~performs~~ are heavier than the slag (7) but lighter than the metal melt (6) and float in the slag near a phase boundary between the metal melt (6) and the slag (7).

Claims 2-4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the density of the preforms (8) is adjusted by compacting the preforms ~~performs~~ (8) so that the preforms disintegrate uniformly and slowly, whereby an evolution of gas in the slag (7) occurs uniformly and over a relatively long period of time.

6. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the density of the preforms (8) is adjusted by compacting the preforms ~~performs~~ (8) so that the preforms disintegrate with a time delay.

7. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a flux, ~~preferably limestone,~~ is additionally added to the mixture.

8. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a slag thinner, ~~preferably  $\text{CaF}_2$~~ , is additionally added to the mixture.

9. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein a reducing agent, ~~preferably silicon and/or aluminum~~, is additionally added to the mixture.

10. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the preforms ~~performs~~ (8) are introduced through the sidewalls (10) or ~~and/or~~ the furnace roof (4) of the electric arc furnace (1).

11. (Currently Amended) Method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the preforms ~~performs~~ (8) are introduced into the slag (7) in a directed way in the vicinity of or directly at the hot spots of the electrodes (5a-c).